

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **S.415, AS AMENDED**

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TO:	The Honorable Ronald P. Townsend, Chairperson, House Education and Public Works Committee		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Bryce Wilson		
DATE:	May 13, 2005	SBD:	2005449

AUTHOR:	Senator Fair	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	59-104-20
SUBJECT:	Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Eligibility		

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

See Below

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

See Below

BILL SUMMARY:

This Bill would amend Section 59-104-20 of the Code of Laws so as to define in code eligible institutions and students for the Palmetto Fellows scholarship program. In addition, it amends section 2-77-15 by changing the eligibility criteria for institutions to participate in the Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

Section 1

The Commission on Higher Education (CHE) estimates the impact of this section to be \$35,700 annually. This section would allow Bob Jones University students to become eligible for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship. Based on FY 2003-04 data, CHE determined that 42 students who received LIFE at that institution could have been eligible for Palmetto Fellows under this statute. If half of these 42 actually became eligible for Palmetto Fellows, the impact would be \$35,700 (21 x \$1,700 or the difference between the LIFE award of \$5,000 and the Palmetto Fellows award of \$6,700). The impact on the General Fund of the State is at the discretion of the General Assembly. The additional scholarship costs could be covered with State General Funds and/or Education Lottery proceeds.


Section 2

This section expands the number of institutions eligible for Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program funds. However, since this program is funded with a set amount of lottery funds regardless of the number of qualifying institutions, there would be no impact from this proposed change.

SPECIAL NOTES:

None.

Approved by:



Don Addy
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget